

To: National Brownfield Forum

Please feel free to pass on to any of your contacts who might be interested.

INTRODUCTION

BSI EH4 Soil Quality is the BSI technical committee responsible for the production of standards relating to soil quality including contaminated land and natural and near-natural sites (e.g. farm land). Standards cover sampling, chemical analysis, physical testing, biological testing, and soil and site assessment. EH4 also deals with standards for the analysis and testing of wastes, standards relating to soil and climate change, and ecosystem services.

BSI EH4 shadows ISO (International Organization for Standardization) Technical Committee *TC 190-Soil Quality* and CEN *TC444-Environmental characterization of solid matrices*. CEN is the European standards organisation.

EH4 actively seeks to broaden its membership. The wider the membership, the greater the confidence that the standards produced are technically sound and known about by potential users from a wide variety of backgrounds. Participation in BSI, CEN and ISO committees can contribute to CPD. Contact the Committee Manager, Joanna Macnamara (joanna.macnamara@bsigroup.com) for more information.

Mike Smith



Asbestos – FprCEN/TS 18020

FprCEN/TS18020 *Construction products – Assessment of release of dangerous substances – Sampling and quantitative determination of asbestos in construction products* has been published for comment.

The proposed document when finalised will be a Technical Specification (TS). Any editorial comments received on the draft TS will be taken into account when the TS is prepared for formal publication in 2024.

Any technical or other comments will be considered prior to a planned robustness validation study. Arrangements for the validation study have yet to be agreed. Assuming the results of the validation study are satisfactory, an updated version of the TS will be published following a further consultation phase.

The draft TS summarizes methods for sampling, sample preparation and identification of asbestos in construction products. It specifies appropriate sample preparation procedures for the quantitative analysis of the asbestos mass fraction in **natural, manufactured or recycled large mineral aggregates** and construction products of fine mineral particle size materials. This document describes the identification of asbestos by polarized light microscopy (PLM) and dispersion staining, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) with energy dispersive X-ray analysis or transmission electron microscopy (TEM) with energy dispersive X-ray and electron diffraction analysis.

This project is being dealt with in the UK by BSI committee B/557 *Construction products - Assessment of dangerous substances* which “shadows” CEN TC/351. Liaison has been established with EH/4 with the intent of trying to ensure wider UK participation in the work than might otherwise be the case. **CEN/TC 351/WG5** started work on production of the draft TS in December 2021. Stephen Forster has been an active member of the Task Group (CEN/TC351/WG5/TG51).

REVISION OF BS10175:2011+A2:2017

The first meeting of the Drafting Panel (EH4/SC8) was held on 9 May and further meetings were held in June, July, August, September, October and November. The aim is to have a Draft for Public Consultation (DPC) early in 2024.

ISO TC190 – Soil Quality MEETING – BERLIN 16-20 OCTOBER

Meetings of TC190, its four Sub-Committees and various Working Groups (WGs) were held in Berlin in October. All sessions were “hybrid” (i.e., face-to-face and Zoom). UK participation was very low.

ISO 18400-301:2023: Soil quality — Sampling — Part 301: Sampling and on site semi-quantitative determinations of volatile organic compounds in field investigations

.....has been recently published and is available at [ISO 18400-301:2023 - Soil quality — Sampling — Part 301: Sampling and on site semi-quantitative determinations of volatile organic compounds in field investigations](#) . It should in due course also be available from the BSI bookshop - - [BSI Knowledge - UK's National Standards Body - Shop BSI Standards or access your BSI Knowledge subscription \(bsigroup.com\)](#) . ISO 18400-3001 will not be adopted as a BS because it overlaps BS 10176:2020 - Taking soil samples for determination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – Specification. UK experts from BSI committee EH/4 Soil quality played an active role in the development of this guidance document. BS 10176 was a major source document for its preparation. People in the UK could find the guidance on “...on-site...determinations” of VOCs useful.

POSSIBLE REVISION OF BS8576:2013

BS 8576:2013 Guidance on investigations for ground gas – Permanent gases and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) was subjected earlier in the year to a 5-yearly review to decide whether revision is necessary. BSI committee *EH/4-Soil quality* decided on the basis of comments received that revision is needed. A business case for revision is being prepared. It is likely to be several months before work on the revision can start.

Standards Relating to Investigation, Assessment, Remediation and Development of Potentially Contaminated and Contaminated Sites

This AGS document provides key information required for a proper understanding and use of Standard Guidance documents and Standard Specifications. It also provides information about in which Standards guidance on various topics such as investigation, reporting and remediation can be found. It can be downloaded from:

<https://www.ags.org.uk/item/standards-relating-to-investigation-assessment-remediation-and-development-of-potentially-contaminated-and-contaminated-sites/>

SOIL HUB

The on-line hub for 'all things soil' ([uksoils](http://uksoils.org)) brings together the best available resources, including educational information and school activities, books and films, data and maps, plus guidance for farmers and land managers on how to support healthy soils. It is also a forum to enable the sharing of knowledge and experiences, encouraging people to link up and carry out initiatives to improve soil health and share locations around the country where soil health pioneers are trying out new technologies and management practices.

The hub is supported by a partnership comprising the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), the Sustainable Soils Alliance, Earthwatch, the University of Sheffield, the British Soil Science Society and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

LEACHING OF SOILS, WASTES AND CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS

A web-site concerning leaching tests supported among others by CEN TC444/WG1 and is now available at:
<http://www.leachingtests.com/>

This website aims to inform the reader about the availability and suitability of standardized leaching tests to solve their questions. It focusses on interrelationships between existing leaching tests to improve understanding of the meaning of a test result. In addition, it provides information on characteristic leaching behaviour of a range of bulk material streams, for which leaching information may be sought to compare one's own material of product.

Note that the web-site, which is largely funded by the Dutch government, is still under development.

LISTINGS

Note: This is not necessarily a complete listing of on-going projects in ISO TC190 and CEN TC444 and, in the case of geotechnical standards, ISO TC182 and CEN TC341. At any one time there are also likely to be a number of other chemical analytical, biological testing, geotechnical and ground engineering standards, progressing through the ISO/CEN/BS system.

KEY
<i>Drafts - New or amended entries – 1-January to 31 December 2022</i>
<i>Drafts - New or amended entries – 1 January to 31 July 2023</i>
<i>Drafts - New or amended entries – 1 to 31 August 2023</i>
<i>Drafts - New or amended entries – 1 to 30 September 2023</i>
<i>Drafts - New or amended entries – 1 to 31 October 2023</i>
<i>Drafts - New or amended entries – 1 to 31 November 2023</i>
<i>Published standards – 1 to 31 August 2023</i>
<i>Published standards – 1 to 30 September 2023</i>
<i>Published standards – 1 to 31 October 2023</i>
<i>Published standards – 1 to 31 November 2023</i>

ISO terminology: NWIP = New Work Item Proposal, WD = Working Draft, CD = Committee Draft, DIS = Draft International Standard, FDIS = Final Draft International Standard.

CEN terminology: prEN = enquiry stage (equivalent of DIS), FprEN = for Final Vote (equivalent of FDIS)

Draft International Standards (DISs) and their CEN equivalents are publically available documents. Some are posted for comment on the standards development area of BSI's web-site. Committee Drafts and their CEN equivalents are not publically available but can be distributed within organisations represented on the relevant BSI committee.

Copies of draft standards are available from the representatives of organisations that are members of the BSI Technical Committee concerned. In the case of EH4, these include for example, AGS, EIC, SCI (see "background" note at the end of this Newsletter for other members). If you do not know who represents an organisation to which you belong, you need to ask the organisation – this is not information that BSI is permitted to supply. However, in most cases I can supply copies for review. The BSI Committee Manager might also be willing to supply a copy.

GEOENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR SOIL & SITE ASSESSMENT – 14 November 2023
An Occasional Newsletter

RECENTLY PUBLISHED STANDARDS		
BS EN 17505:2023	Soil and waste characterization – Temperature dependent differentiation of total carbon (TOC400, ROC, TIC900)	Published November 2023
BS ISO 17813:2023	Environmental solid matrices – Halogens and sulfur by oxidative pyrohydrolytic combustion followed by ion chromatography detection	Published October 2023
PD CEN/TS 17943:2023	Characterization of waste – Guidance on determination of the content of elements and substances in waste	Published August 2023
ISO 18400-301: 2023	Soil quality – Sampling – Part 301: Sampling and on site semi-quantitative determinations of volatile organic compounds in field investigations	Published September 2023 <i>Will not be adopted as a BS</i>
ISO 18475:2023	Environmental solid matrices – Determination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) by gas chromatography – Mass selective detection (GC-MS) or electron-capture detection (GC-EC) <i>Involves adoption by ISO of EN 17322. Replaces</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ISO 10382:2002, Soil quality – Determination of organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls – Gas-chromatographic method with electron capture detection and</i> • <i>ISO 13876:2013, Soil quality – Determination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) by gas chromatography with mass selective detection (GC-MS) and gas chromatography with electroncapture detection (GC-ECD)</i> 	Published October 2023
BS EN ISO 22477-2:2023	Geotechnical investigation and testing – Testing of geotechnical structures – Part 2: Testing of piles: static tension load test	Published August 2023
BS EN ISO 18674-8:2023	Geotechnical investigation and testing – Geotechnical monitoring by field instrumentation – Part 8: Measurement of forces: Load cells	Published October 2023

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DRAFT ISO/CEN GEOTECHNICAL STANDARDS		
<i>These standards form part of the programme of work of BSI committee B526/3.</i>		
CEN EN 1997-1	Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical design – General Rules <i>Will partially replace BS EN 1997-1: 2004 + A1: 2013</i>	Comment period ended 22 November 2022
CEN EN 1997-2	Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical design – Ground properties <i>Will replace BS EN 1997-2: 2007</i>	Comment period ended 22 November 2022
CEN EN 1997-3	Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical design – Geotechnical structures <i>Will partially replace BS EN 1997-1: 2004</i>	Comment period ended 22 November 2022
ISO CD 18674-7	Geotechnical investigation and testing – Geotechnical monitoring by field instrumentation – Part 7: Measurement of strains: Strain gauges	ISO commenting period ended 17 April 2023
FprEN, ISO FDIS 22476-16	Geotechnical investigation and testing – Field testing – Part 16: Borehole shear test	Comment period ends 19 November 2023

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DRAFT ANALYTICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TESTING STANDARDS etc. <i>These standards form part of the programme of work of BSI committee EH4</i>		
ISO CD 7303	Soil quality – Simplified method for oral bioaccessibility of metal(loids) in soils <i>Will complement BS ISO 17924 – see also NWIP 8259</i>	BSI Comment period ended 8 April 2023
ISO DIS 8259	Soil quality – Bioaccessibility of organic and inorganic pollutants from contaminated soil and soil-like material <i>Based on DIN 19738. Will complement BS ISO 17924 – see also NWIP 7303</i>	BSI Comment period ended 31 August 2023
ISO DIS 11464	Sludge, treated biowaste, soil and waste – Determination of dry residue or water content and calculation of the dry matter fraction on a mass basis <i>(Merger of ISO 11464 with EN 12889 & EN 15934)</i>	-
ISO CD 11265	Environmental solid matrices – Determination of the specific electrical conductivity	BSI comment period ended 19 June 2023
ISO FDIS 11267 CEN FprEN 11267	Soil quality – Inhibition of reproduction of <i>Collemba</i> (<i>Folsomia candida</i>) by soil contamination <i>(will replace BS EN ISO 11267:2014)</i>	BSI comment period ended 17 June 2023
ISO DIS 11074	Soil quality – Vocabulary	Comment period has ended.
ISO CD 13196	Soil quality – Screening soils for selected elements by energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometry using a handheld or portable instrument <i>(Revision of BS ISO 13196:2013)</i>	BSI comment period ended 13 July 2023
ISO CD 13536	Soil quality – Determination of the potential cation exchange capacity and exchangeable cations using barium chloride solution buffered at pH = 8.1	-
ISO CD 15192	Soil and waste – Determination of chromium (VI) in solid material by alkaline digestion and ion chromatography with spectrometric detection <i>Will replace ISO 15192:2010</i>	BSI Comment period ended 13 May 2023
FprEN CEN/TR16110	Characterization of waste – Guidance on the use of ecotoxicity tests applied to waste <i>(will supersede CEN/TR16110:2010)</i>	Comment period ends 18 November 2023
CEN prEN ISO 16965	Environmental solid matrices – Determination of elements using inductively coupled plasma spectrometry (ICP-MS)	Proceeding to enquiry

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ISO DIS 17126	Soil quality – Determination of the effects of pollutants on soil flora – Screening test for emergence of lettuce seedlings (<i>Lactuca sativa</i> L.) <i>Will replace ISO 17126:2005</i>	Comment period ended 29 September 2023
CEN FprEN 17516:2022	Waste – Characterization of granular solids with potential for use as construction material – Compliance leaching test – Up-flow percolation test <i>(Text will be the same as EN 16637-3 on leaching of construction products)</i>	Comment period ended 17 June 2023
ISO DIS 18187	Soil quality – Contact test for solid samples using the dehydrogenase activity of <i>Arthrobacter globiformis</i> <i>(will replace [BS] ISO 18187:2016)</i>	Comment period ended 26 August 2023
ISO CD 18386	Soil quality – Screening method for soil temperature	Comment period ended 23 March 2023
ISO CD 18718	Assessment of soil functions and related ecosystem services: definitions, descriptions and conceptual framework	Comment period ended 9 September 2023
ISO CD 18721	Assessment of soil functions: indicators and methods	Comment period ended 9 September 2023
ISO CD 18227	Environmental soil matrices – Determination of elemental composition by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry <i>Includes merger of ISO 18277 and EN 15309</i>	Comment period ended 6 November 2023
ISO NP 21251	Soil quality - Guidance for estimating organic carbon stocks according to their biogeochemical stability or residence time	Approved to proceed October 2023
ISO DIS 21268-5	Soil quality — Leaching procedures for subsequent chemical and ecotoxicological testing of soil and soil-like materials — Part 5: Batch test with forced aerobic or anaerobic conditions	Comment period ended 12 January 2022
ISO FDIS 22036 CEN FprEN 22036	Environmental solid matrices – Determination of elements using inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES)	Comment period ends 19 November
ISO DTS 22171	Soil quality – Determination of potential cation exchange capacity (CEC) and exchangeable cations buffered at pH 7 using a molar ammonium acetate solution	Comment period ended 29 October 2023

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ISO DIS 23611-2	Soil quality -Sampling of soil invertebrates - Part 2: Sampling and extraction of micro-arthropods (Collembola and Acarina)	Comment period ended 21 July 2023
ISO DIS 23611-5	Soil quality — Sampling of soil invertebrates — Part 5: Sampling and extraction of soil macro-invertebrates	Comment period ended 21 July 2023
ISO DIS 24212 CEN prEN 24212	Remediation techniques applied at contaminated sites	Comment period ended 8 June 2023

NEW WORK ITEM PROPOSALS <i>SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY CEN TC444 and/or ISO TC190</i>		
CEN NWIP TS 17883	Environmental characterization of leachates from waste and soil using reproductive and toxicological gene expression in <i>Daphnia magna</i>	CEN TS17883:2022 requires technical changes. Comments on NWIP ended 12 April 2023
ISO NP 19254	Simultaneous determination of multi-class pesticide residues in soil using GC-MS/MS and LC-MS/MS analysis	
ISO & CEN WI 21744	Environmental solid matrices – Guidance for sample pretreatment <i>Will replace several CEN & ISO standards.</i>	Draft with ISO TC190 for consideration prior to submission of formal proposal to CEN & ISO by the end of 2023.
ISO WD XXXXX	Determination of inorganic arsenic species in soil and soil-like materials	

BACKGROUND

BSI EH4 Soil Quality is the BSI technical committee responsible for the production of standards relating to soil quality including contaminated land and natural and near-natural sites (e.g. farm land). Standards cover sampling, chemical analysis, physical testing, biological testing, and soil and site assessment. EH4 also deals with standards for the analysis and testing of wastes produced by CEN TC444.

BSI EH4 shadows ISO (International Organization for Standardization) Technical Committee *TC 190 Soil Quality* and *CEN TC444 (Environmental characterization of solid matrices)*. CEN is the European standards organisation.

EH4 is also responsible for BS10175 (investigation of contaminated sites), BS 8576 (ground gas investigations), BS8454 (protection of buildings against gas) and BS 10176 (soil sampling for VOC determination of VOCs).

There are about twenty organisations (e.g. trade bodies, learned societies, professional bodies, quasi-government bodies etc.) represented on the committee at present together with a handful of individual experts who represent the UK on various ISO and CEN Working Groups. To find out who represents a particular organisation, the organisation should be contacted.

Nominated representatives of member organisations receive copies of formal drafts of standards, known in the case of ISO as Committee Drafts (CDs), Draft International Standards (DISs) and Final Draft International Standards (FDISs); and in the case of BSI as Drafts for Public Comment. They also receive copies of published standards for personal use.

Those representing an organisation are expected to circulate papers to, and consult, those they represent. Draft standards can be posted on “members-only” sections of web-sites for downloading or can be e-mailed to all members of the organisation that is represented.

EH4 actively seeks to broaden its membership. The wider the membership of EH4, the greater the confidence there can be that the standards produced are technically sound and known about by potential users from a wide variety of backgrounds. It also increases the pool of people from which it might be possible to draw on from time to time to represent the UK in ISO and CEN Working Groups. BSI can nominate one or more experts to each of the numerous Working Groups in ISO TC190 and CEN TC444. Whilst experts will hopefully attend meetings of the WGs, in practice this is not always possible and participation is limited to receipt and review of papers.

Member organisations of EH4 include:

Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS), Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Environment Agency, Environmental Industries Commission (EIC), EIC Contaminated Land Working Group, Environmental Services Association, Institution of Environmental Sciences, National House Building Council (NHBC), Royal Society of Biology, Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment (SOBRA), Society of Chemical Industry (SCI), the James Hutton Institute, Water UK, Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group.

Note (03.09.23): *A number of the organisations listed above are currently unrepresented on EH/4 as a result of replacement representatives not being named by the organisations concerned.*